

**Minutes of the Tree and Landscape Board**  
**City Hall, City of College Park**  
**November 30, 2016**

<u>Term Exp.</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
N/A	Brenda Alexander, Public Works Deputy Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A	Steven Beavers, Planning Dept. Representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11/30/2016	John Krouse, Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4/30/17	John Lea-Cox, City Forester	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8/30/2017	Christine O'Brien, member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A	Janis Oppelt/CBE Representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9/30/2016	Joseph Smith, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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N/A	Carleveva Thompson, Contract Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

- 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the October 19, 2016 meeting were reviewed and several edits were made.

**Motion:** Approve October meeting minutes with changes.

**Moved:** Dr. Lea-Cox

**Second:** Mr. Krouse

**Aye:** Unanimous

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

- 2. Public Works Department Report:** Ms. Alexander shared the following highlights:

- All trees that were ordered have been planted.
- Pepco's contractor, ASPLUNDH, is currently working in the North end of the city performing approved tree removals.
- Public Works is currently performing curbside leaf collection. Signs are posted in the neighborhoods to give notice for the week when they will be collecting leaves. The calendar on the website is updated on Fridays and is a tentative schedule.
- The landscape crews are working on landscape maintenance, leaf removal, and tree pruning.

- 3. Planning Report:** Mr. Beavers shared the following highlights:

- The stormwater projects on Rhode Island Ave and on Narragansett Parkway will be starting next week.

- 4. CBE Report:** Ms. Oppelt shared the following highlights:

- Upcoming projects on Good Neighbor Day
- Connected campus community pilot projects
- Reactivation of the business recycling subcommittee

- 5. Preservation of Hollywood Neighborhood Park:** Mr. Krouse stated that the stormwater project for Hollywood Park is off the table. A copy of the letter that was submitted to the City Council is attached.
- 6. Addressing Hazardous Trees:** Mr. Krouse shared with the Board the revisions he drafted to the City Code for addressing hazardous trees. The suggested changes are as follows:
  - Specifically state what is a hazardous tree
  - Change 10 days to 30 days to correct the violationMr. Smith asked the board to review the revisions and provide comments to Mr. Krouse.
- 7. Tree Canopy Enhancement Program/Benefits of Large Trees Brochure:** Ms. Alexander shared with the Board the guidelines for the Tree Canopy Enhancement program and also a draft of the application for the program to review.
- 8. New Business:**
  - Ms. Alexander shared the statistics for the TLB webpage and the City's webpage.
  - Dr. Lea-Cox stated his concern with the City Manager's directive to discontinue planting Zelkovas.
- 9. Wrap Up, Confirmation of Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the TLB will take place on January 18, 2017. Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Oppelt and seconded by Mr. Krouse. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

November 3, 2016

Mayor Patrick Wojahn  
Members of the College Park City Council  
4500 Knox Road  
College Park, MD 20740-3390

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council:

At the October 19, 2016 meeting of the College Park Tree and Landscape Board, the Board voted unanimously to accept the following three conclusions of the Hollywood Park Committee Final Report, which addresses the proposed stormwater management pond and resulting changes to recreational facilities in Hollywood Neighborhood Park.

The conclusions are:

- a. The proposed stormwater pond would destroy important existing natural and recreational features of the Park, and would reduce future options for recreational development.
- b. The alternative water treatment strategies identified in this Report should be investigated to improve water quality and to obtain TMDL water treatment credit.
- c. The existing picnic pavilion and its mature trees and forest should be protected and enhanced.

As previously stated, Tree and Landscape Board members are in unanimous opposition to the pond and its many negative impacts. If such a plan could be proposed in Hollywood, then it seems possible that other MNCPPC parks in College Park could likewise be damaged. It is not in the interest of City residents to allow their important natural and recreational features to be destroyed in this way. Moreover, it doesn't make much sense to remove hundreds of trees to facilitate the installation of a stormwater management pond when the trees that would be cut down are *already performing* the function that the proposed pond is meant to provide. Thus, the inclusion of a stormwater management pond in Hollywood Neighborhood Park would be an environmentally unsound approach to filtering stormwater runoff before it reaches the creeks and waterways that flow into the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Smith  
Chair, College Park Tree and Landscape Board